

## **In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;**

The annual RD contest, probably the biggest on the Australian Amateur Radio Contesting calendar, was on this weekend. If you took part, don't forget to submit your log – it helps the overall VK2 tally.

Next weekend is the Annual Lighthouse and Lightship weekend. While this isn't a contest in the conventional sense; it's a great opportunity to make contacts all over the world, with some of the most unusual of places, too. Looking at the list of official stations participating, Australia has the second highest number of locations to be operating, after Germany.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of August.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	70	70	69	69	70	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	8	6	5	11	6	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	1	2	0	8	3	2 estimated
T index	4	1	2	0	3	4	4

Solar flare activity was very low, all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region remained near predicted monthly values, during daylight hours, all week. But again this week, we have seen some slight enhancements during local nights – 20% on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 25% on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 15% on the 5<sup>th</sup>, which also was 20% enhanced just after local dawn, 15% on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>, and 25% on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of August;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach unsettled to active levels on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August, but should be quiet at other times.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Looking back at July, the figures for the month were a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 73  
With peak dates between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>

Now as we are nearly half way through August, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for September, we expect;

Minimum of 69, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates between the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.*

[using daily data updates from :  
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/usaf-45-day-ap-and-f107cm-flux-forecast>]

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## What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with the series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

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*Duration: 2m56s*

*In: "What use is an F-call?"*

*Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"*

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For more information about this series, you can contact Onno via email, to [onno@itmaze.com.au](mailto:onno@itmaze.com.au), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## **ARRL DX news**

GREENLAND; Brandon, W0GPR is active as OX/W0GPR until August 27. Also, Bo, OZ1DJJ will be active as OX3LX from August 15 to 29, on various HF bands.

VIETNAM; Jacek, SP5APW will be active as 3W9JK/P from Cham Island, AS-162 from September 15 to 22, and as 3W9JK from Ho An City in the Quang Nam Province from September 22 to 27. Activity will be on 20 to 6 metres using SSB.

MOROCCO; Operators Jose, EA1ACP, Gen, EA5EL, Francisco, EA7FTR and David, EB7DX will be active with special call sign 5E5A on August 14 and 15, August 19 to 21 and August 30 to September 3. Operations will be on CW, SSB and FT8.

CHINA; Operators Lide, BI8CKU and Rui-Li, BI8JDW will be active as B0/B18CKU from Lhasa, Tibet, China, until August 14. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres using FT8 only.

GREECE; Jacques, F6HMJ will be active as SV8/F6HMJ from Ios Island, IOTA EU067, from August 27 to September 6. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and some SSB.

CURACAO; Charles, NK8O will be active as PJ2/NK8O from August 27 to September 2. Activity will be holiday style, QRP only, on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 metres.

CUBA; Operators Alexei, CO2XK, Lazaro, CO2WL, Amed, CO2AME and possibly others, will be active as T42W from October 25 to 29. Activity will include the CQWW DX SSB Contest, October 27 and 28, and include some FT8 operations.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS; A five man team will be active on 160 through 10 metres, except 60 metres, from August 13 to 22, signing TX5T.

ANTIGUA; Philippe, EA4NF will be active as V26NF until August 19. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres.

KOSOVO; Tev, TA1HZ will be on the air as Z68HZ from August 17 to 27.

WAKE ISLAND; Randy, WW6RG will be active on August 17 as KH9/WW6RG using SSB and running QRP.

MARSHALL ISLANDS; Randy will then move on to Kwajalein Atoll from August 21 to 23, signing V73/WW6RG.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; Enrico, IZ0GYP will be living in Dubai for at least a year. He has been issued the call A65FU.

CAMBODIA; Rene, F6CTW is active as XU7AEX until August 20. Listen for him using CW on 40, 30 and 20 metres.

QATAR; Rasto, OM6AA is signing A75GR from Doha. He has been active on 20 metre CW.

BELIZE; Victor, WB0TEV is active as V31TP from August 16 to 22. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The WAE DX Contest, CW, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Maryland-DC QSO Party and the MMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint are all on this weekend.

The NAQCC CW Sprint is scheduled for August 15.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

## WICEN News

The WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting was held yesterday, here at ARNSW in Quarry Road, Dural.

Hunter Region WICEN is seeking more operators for The Great North Walk Ultras, are a series of trail races from Teralba to Patonga Wharf, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Please contact WICEN operations if you are interested.

Later in September is the "Barrington SAREX", or Search And Rescue Exercise, on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, built around the search for the missing Cessna 210M, VH-MDX.

The Hounslow Classic is a running event centered around Blackheath, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The next day of WICEN Induction will be held at VK2WI Dural next Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

October the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> are the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and the Wisemans Dash. These events raise funds for the ARROW Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

October 14<sup>th</sup> is Volunteer Memorial Day.

The WICEN website at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au). Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN Northern Rivers holds a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region meets at 3:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The region is also running an HF net on Thursday evenings from 7pm, on the band-plan's 80 metre WICEN frequency of 3.6MHz.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. In October, the ANU "Inward Bound" adventure race, is on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, then both Fitz's Challenge and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, are on the 28<sup>th</sup>. See the WICEN and Events pages on [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria has a net on 3.6 MHz each Wednesday at 8:30pm local time. Coming events include the Field Weekend at Lauriston Scout Camp in the Macedon Ranges, on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October, and the Stockmans Rally at Big River on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>. For details, visit the website at [vic.wicen.org.au](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS  
on behalf of the WICEN NSW State Management Committee.*

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## Club News

We start this week, with news from the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

The following executive positions were filled at the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club's Annual General Meeting last Saturday; President: Myles VK2ASS, Vice President: Jaye VK2FOMG, Secretary: Mark VK2CCR, Treasurer: Dave VK2DLS. Sub-committee positions were returned, and the new Publicity Officer is Dave VK2KFU. We offer our commiserations to all concerned.

Please note that the Central Coast WICEN AGM has been moved to next Saturday, the 18th of August. As this coincides with the regular Club lecture on that day, the arrangement for the day is as follows (now, listen carefully);

First is the usual sausage sizzle at noon, followed by the Central Coast WICEN training session in the Club rooms at 12.30pm. Then the short WICEN AGM, will start at 1pm, and this will be followed by the Club lecture for the day - a practical demonstration of test equipment, by Graham VK2GRA.

Due to the Shahzada Horse Enduro being held in the last week of August, the usual business meeting of the Club has been postponed to the following Saturday 8th September. Naturally all are welcome, especially visitors.

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the club rooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station, at 1pm — just look for the big tower — preceded by the obligatory sausage sizzle starting at noon. The club rooms are accessible by bus, with a bus stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station, every hour.

The Club also relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6m and 2m repeaters VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725MHz respectively; please note that both repeaters require a sub-audible tone of 91.5Hz.

There is a net held every Thursday on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm, and all members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved).

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for centralcoastarc, and a Twitter account, @ccarclub [pronounced “at CC AR Club” ].

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the website, at [ccarc.org.au](http://ccarc.org.au), which will soon have various interactive features.

*Dave VK2KFU*

*Publicity Officer for the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club*

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering, starting at 7pm on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Club station VK2BOR participated in this weekend's RD Contest, from the club's communications caravan, at the Camden Haven Airfield south of Port Macquarie. The station operated throughout the night in the 24 hours section, on all bands including 160 metres.

Next weekend, VK2BOR is operating from the club's caravan at the Tacking Point Lighthouse, taking part in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. This year, activity will only be on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August – while normally the club station operates all weekend for this event, the lighthouse site is not available on Saturday this year, due to a wedding.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444; Training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences, run once sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net takes place from 9am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater, 146.7MHz. This repeater requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access.

Visitors are always made very welcome at the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each month. The venue for all these meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Club, visit the website at [orarc.org](http://orarc.org). The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The July 2018 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", is now available to read on the website, and past issues can be viewed there as well.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE  
for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The society meets on the second Tuesday of every month, and the next meeting is on next Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. General meetings start at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are held at the Coniston Community Hall in Bridge Street Coniston, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is right next door to Coniston railway station, so access to meetings by train, is very easy.

The next meeting is the Society's AGM, with all positions vacated and up for election. Visitors need not be concerned about being hijacked into a position, as many of the current Committee and Executive are happy to volunteer again – if elected of course.

Following the AGM, Rob VK2MT will give a presentation on HF antennas - from balanced to unbalanced and resonant to non-resonant. Following which will be the usual ragchew and cuppa with chocky biscuits. Based on many past meeting nights, ragchewing continues until the hall lights are turned off, but then leads on into the carpark!

The Society has recently established a new DMR UHF repeater. It is located at the VK2RMP Maddens Plains site and is on 438.725MHz, with a 5MHz negative offset. On Slot 1 it is presently connected to World Wide Talk Group 91 and on Slot 2, it is connected to the Australian and NSW Talk Groups of 505 and 5052. All listeners in the Wollongong and Sydney region are invited to test out the system, and reports can be sent to the Society's Secretary, Keith VK2KQB, on [iars.keithb@gmail.com](mailto:iars.keithb@gmail.com).

If you are interested in gaining your Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas, remember that there is a team of enthusiastic Amateurs led by Ted VK2ARA to assist, mentor, teach and then examine for your licence. The team runs learning programs for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced licenses, so contacted Ted via email to; [vk2ara@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2ara@wia.org.au).

And don't forget about the Saturday morning chit-chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. If you're interested in joining-in, listen on either VK2RMP or VK2RUW 2m repeaters from 9.30am or you can call-in on Echolink, using VK2BGL-R.

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To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 14th of August, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT*

*Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

## **Hunter Radio Group**

The next monthly meeting of the Group is on next Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> August. Please note that this meeting has been moved back a week, due to this weekend's RD Contest.

The location is as usual; the Belmore Function Room at the Adamstown Bowling Club. The meeting starts at 7.30pm, and light meals will be available from the bar, before the meeting.

*Rodney VK2CN*  
*Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

## Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Winterfest is on Sunday the 26th of August at the BMARC Club rooms, 4 Moors Street, Glenbrook. Doors open at 9am, entry is \$5 per person.

Car boot sales are available, and not just limited to Amateur Radio equipment; as members have other hobbies too, there is a diverse range of goodies available.

If you wish to set up a stall, contact [president@bmarc.org](mailto:president@bmarc.org) for more details.

Tea, Coffee and bickies will be available all day for a Gold coin donation. A sausage sizzle and drinks will be available at reasonable prices.

There will also be a raffle, which will be drawn at about 1pm.

The BMARC Club rooms are open to all on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 10am until 2pm.

Meetings of BMARC are on the first Friday of each month, except for January, and start at 7:30pm. Visitors are very welcome.

The club also operates 2 nets each week; Tuesdays at 8pm on 80 metres at 3.543kHz and on the club 2 metre repeater on 147.050Mhz. Please note the repeater requires a 123hz tone.

The Club regularly holds Foundation License weekends; for more information on these, and all Club activities, visit the website, at [www.bmarc.org](http://www.bmarc.org).

*Submitted by Daniel VK2DC  
President, BMARC.*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday, the 15th, is lecture night at the club. This month's speaker is Ross Torrington, and his topic is "Wireless before radiowaves". Ross owns/operates a small museum, and he will be bringing along some of his old communications treasures to illustrate and accompany his talk.

Next weekend of course is International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, and hopefully VK2MB will once again activate Barrenjoey Lighthouse at Palm Beach in northern Sydney. Good luck and good DX to all participating stations!

The club is currently testing a new 70cm DMR repeater on 438.4 MHz, with a -5.4 MHz offset. This is a three month trial during which the 70cm D-STAR repeater will be offline. VK2RMB is network node 505235, with a Colour Code of 1. Coverage reports are welcome.

Visit the club web site at [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au), for more information about these and other club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), the club YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the club's Scouting program and much more.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's two metre repeater on 146.875MHz, or visit the club's web site at [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au), for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY, MWRS Publicity Officer*



## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Last month saw the annual club auction; while attendance was down a bit on last year, a fun day was had by all in attendance, and the auctioneer went home without a hoarse throat for once.

The Echolink and IRLP node on the Paddington UHF repeater has been down for a while due to the aging computer finally giving up, but a shiny new RaspberryPi-based node has been ordered, and will hopefully be back on air by the time you hear this broadcast.

The August monthly meeting of the club is this coming Wednesday, the 15th, commencing at 7:30pm. At the meeting Eric, VK2VE, will be giving a talk on using the DMR system from a user's perspective. As usual, tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

The next project day is on Saturday September 1st commencing at around 1:30pm and going through to about 4:00 or 5:00pm. The next shack night will be on Wednesday, September 5th starting at 7:30pm.

As usual, the club is open most Tuesdays for all the retirees, idle rich or those just skipping work for the day or any others who can make it along, from about 10am to about 4pm.

Live Morse practice sessions continue on Thursday evenings, commencing at 8:00pm on or about 21.020MHz, and Don't forget the club's weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater on 438.1125MHz with -5.4MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone from 8:00pm every Monday.

The next Foundation course and Assessments weekend being run by the club will be over the weekend of September 15th & 16th. Details and how to book can be found on the club website in the Education and Training section.

There is full information about the club on its regularly updated website at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org); which is now back up and running after having some technical issues. The site includes the ability to renew membership, purchase items or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form on the webpage, which is normally actioned within a couple of days.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is an informal, mid-monthly meeting, this Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August starting at 8pm. The meeting is at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, is the centenary of the Marconi-Fisk message. Operation of special event station VK100MARCONI will be at St Andrew's Anglican Church from 11 am, and the monument from 1 pm.

For more information on nets and other club activities, the website is at: [www.hadarc.org.au](http://www.hadarc.org.au).

The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS  
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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## Summary of coming events;

### August

Remembrance Day Contest, this weekend

Illawarra ARS AGM on the 14<sup>th</sup>

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah ARS meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>

ORARC gathering on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Central Coast WICEN AGM on the 18<sup>th</sup>

International Lighthouse & lightship weekend, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Blue Mountains ARC "Winterfest" on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### September

St George ARS gathering on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Great North Walk Ultra – A WICEN event – on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

Barrington SAREX, a WICEN event, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation and Assessment weekend, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

Centenary of the first direct message from the UK to Australia via radio, 22<sup>nd</sup>

Canberra Region ARC Foundation Weekend and assessments, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 30<sup>th</sup>

### October

St George ARS gathering on the 3<sup>th</sup>

JOTA and JOTI on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>